

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01

SR-02 ORM-01 EUR-08 AID-05 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3646

INFO ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE 28

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DACCA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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DACCA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF MO

SUBJ: ARAB SUMMIT: ARAFAT PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: RABAT 5277

1. FOLLOWING KING HASSAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE, ARAFAT ADDRESSED GOOD TURNOUT OF JOURNALISTS FOR OVER AN HOUR OCT 30. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS EVENT.

2. PLO-JORDAN RELATIONS. ARAFAT CORRECTED KING HASSAN'S REMARK (REFTEL) THAT HE AND KING HUSSEIN WOULD MEET IN AMMAN WITHIN NEXT WEEK TO TEN DAYS. RATHER, HE SAID, WOULD BE FOUR-PARTY MEETING INVOLVING EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND PLO IN AMMAN. HE NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED 7-10 DAY TIME FRAM. MEETING WOULD BE TO DISCUSS COMMON ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL AND MILITARY AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

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3. CONFERENCE, HE SAID, HAD SEEN PLO AND JORDAN WORK OUT MANY BUT NOT ALL THEIR PROBLEMS. WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE RELATIONS, HE REFERRED TO KING'S STATEMENT IN OCT 29 SPEECH CLOSING CONFERENCE TO EFFECT THAT PALESTINE AND JORDAN WOULD BE TWO SEPARATE BUT FRIENDLY STATES.

4. WHEN ASKED HOW HE PROPOSED TO DEAL WITH ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE ON NEGOTIATING WITH PLO, HE SAID SIMPLY THAT PLO WOULD NOT SUBMIT TO ISRAELI BLACKMAIL.

5. PLO GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. THIS QUESTION, HE SAID, WOULD BE DECIDED IN ACCORD WITH PALESTINIAN INTERESTS WHEN CONDITIONS FOR PLO GOVT IN EXILE EXISTED.

6. FEDAYEEN TACTICS. ARAFAT WAS ASKED WHETHER, NOW THAT PLO HAD A CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL STATUS, IT WOULD CALL OFF OPERATIONS BY PLO-SPONSORED FEDAYEEN AGAINST ISRAELI CIVILIANS. PREDICTABLY, THIS PRODUCED LONG, AND WARMLY APPLAUDED TIRADE FROM ARAFAT ABOUT ISRAELI ATROCITIES AGAINST ARAB CIVILIANS.

7. INTERNAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL. IDEA OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WAS BEGINNING TO FIND ITS WAY MORE IN ISRAEL, ARAFAT SAID. PALESTINE STOOD AS ALWAYS FOR MULTI-RELIGIOUS STATE IN WHICH JEW, CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM COULD LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE. HE MENTIONED LETTER HE PROFESSED TO HAVE RECEIVED FROM ISRAELI SAYING THAT IN ISRAEL, SEGREGATION, NOT ONLY OF JEW FROM ARAB BUT JEW FROM JEW, EXISTED. PLO PLANNED ACCEPT REQUEST OF THIS PERSON FOR ASYLUM.

8. COMMENT: ON BASIS OF REPORTS ON PRESS CONFERENCE AVAILABLE TO US (IT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED), WE ARE STRUCK BY RELATIVE MODERATION OF ARAFAT'S REMARKS. UNLIKE FARUQ QADUMI AT OPENING SESSION OF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING OCT 22, ARAFAT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US, AND HE DID NOT MAKE POINT OF PROCLAIMING HIS "VICTORY" ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE. HE SEEMS TO HAVE BACKED OFF GOVT IN EXILE QUESTION SOMEWHAT, AND TO HAVE BROKEN NEW GROUND ONLY ON CORRECTING KING HASSAN ON FORTHCOMING AMMAN MEETINGS.

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